GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4802
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
COMMITTEE FOR INVESTIGATING DISEASES
Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing any agenda to meet the emerging medical needs of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda;

(c) whether the Government has formed any committee to investigate the diseases such as AIDS and SARS in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the committee has discussed about the reasons of spread of AIDS and SARS in the country;

(f) if so, the details of the discussions;

(g) the outcome thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (b): To meet the growing medical requirements, effectively strengthen the health care delivery system and arrest the onslaught of communicable and non-communicable diseases, a natinal rural health mission has been launched.

(c)to(h): The diseases AIDS and SARS are strictly not comparable. Outbreak of SARS was a limited phenomenon where India was involved to a limited extent due to international tourist traffic. At that time of outbreak a high level Centre-State Joint Committee was put in place for close monitoring of the situation and providing technical assistance to State Governments. Mandatory screening was introduced in 12 Ports and 21 Air Ports in the country for all persons disembarking in India. Health care facilities at such Airports and Ports was strengthened by opening health counters for purposes of screening, by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol with facilities for direct referral to identified hospitals. The situation was monitored on a daily basis and three probable cases of SARS were reported all of which were imported from affected countries.

As regards, AIDS there is a continuing National Programme under implementation for control of AIDS. The National AIDS Control Organization conducts HIV sentinel surveillance annually in designated sentinel sites to track the progression of HIV epidemic in the country. The entire programme including surveillance activity under AIDS is to be evaluated by an independent agency.